

## Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /056 W

----- 085654

R 210721Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1029

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

DIA WASHDC

COMJUSMAGTHAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 20590

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS TH

SUBJECT: FIRST INSURGENT ATTACK ON PROVINCIAL CAPITAL

REF: SONGKHLA 175 (CONTROL 554)

FOLLOWING TELE BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO.

QUOTE:

R 200400Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL SONGKHLA

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 017

C O N F I D E N T I A L SONGKHLA 175

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, TH

SUBJECT: FIRST INSURGENT ATTACK ON PROVINCIAL CAPITAL

SUMMARY: IN WHAT RTG AUTHORITIES DESCRIBE AS FIRST ATTACK ON  
PROVINCIAL CAPITAL IN HISTORY OF THAI INSURGENCY, ABOUT 40 CT  
ATTACKED A MILITARY TRAINING SCHOOL IN TRANG PROVINCE EARLY IN THE  
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MORNING OF JULY 15. OBJECTIVE OF RAID WAS CAPTURE OF WEAPONS AND

AMMUNITION STORED AT THE SCHOOL. TRANG POLICE WERE IN THE AREA OF THE ATTACK BUT CHOSE NOT TO OPPOSE CT BECAUSE THEY WERE OUTNUMBERED. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS INDICATE SOME TRANG STUDENTS MAY HAVE ASSISTED CT IN THE RAID. END SUMMARY

1. ATTACK BY ABOUT 40 CT, MOSTLY TEENAGERS, TOOK PLACE AT APPROXIMATELY 0100 HOURS JULY 15 AT WICHIANMATU HIGH SCHOOL IN TRANG. SINCE JULY 12, ROYAL THAI ARMY (RTA) HAD BEEN CONDUCTING BASIC MILITARY TRAINING FOR ABOUT 150 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AT THE SCHOOL. WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION TO BE USED IN PRACTICE FIRING HAD BEEN MOVED FROM AN AMMUNITION STORAGE BUILDING ELSEWHERE IN TRANG TO THE HIGHHSCHOOL THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 14.

2. INITIALLY CT SURROUNDED QUARTERS OF RTA TRAINING CONTINGENT AND DEMANDED THEY SURRENDER AND HAND OVER AMMUNITION. THEY REFUSED AND 15 MINUTE GUN BATTLE FOLLOWED DURING WHICH LT. COL KII SANGWAN-NGOEN, HEAD OF THE TRAINING GROUP, WAS WOUNDED. CT DEPARTED IN TWO TRUCKS WAITING FOR THEM WITHOUT CAPTURING WEAPONS OR AMMUNITION. THEY REPORTEDLY DROVE OFF TO THE NORTHEAST IN THE DIRECTION OF HUAI YOD DISTRICT.

3. ACCORDING TO HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL WHO WITNESSED ATTACK, PROVINCIAL POLICE PATROL HEARD SHOOTING AND APPROACHED THE SCHOOL ONLY TO RETREAT WHEN THEY DISCOVERED A LARGE NUMBER OF CT THERE. POLICE THEN RADIOED FOR REINFORCEMENTS WHO DID NOT ARRIVE UNTIL AFTER CT HAD FLED. INEFFECTIVE POLICE PERFORMANCE HAS LOWERED THEIR STOCK WITH TRANG RESIDENTS WHO DID NOT HOLD LOCAL GENDARMES IN MUCH ESTEEM BEFORE THE INCIDENT.

4. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS INDICATE TRANG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS MAY HAVE BEEN AMONG CT WHO ATTACKED THE TRAINING SCHOOL. TIMING OF ATTACK I.E. PRECISELY WHEN WEAPONS AND AMMO HAD BEEN MOVED TO THE TRAINING AREA INDICATES CT HAD INFORMATION FROM SOMEONE CLOSE TO THE SITUATION ALTHOUGH OTHERS COULD HAVE KNOWN OF AMMUNITION MOVEMENT. SHOULD REPORTS OF STUDENT INVOLVEMENT BE CONFIRMED, RTG WOULD BE PRESENTED WITH DILEMMA OF BEING UNABLE TO MOVE AGAINST THEM WITHOUT RISKING WRATH OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS CLAIMING THEY WERE BEING VICTIMIZED, A RISK WHICH ON BALANCE RTG AUTHORITIES PREFER NOT TO TAKE

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5. FLTHOUGH CT WERE UNSUCCESSFUL IN CAPTURING AMMUNITIONS, THEY ACHIEVED AN IMPORTANT PSYCHOLOGICAL VICTORY. INABILITY OF RTG SECURITY FORCES TO PREVENT ATTACK IN THE HEART OF PROVINCIAL CAPITAL, ABOUT 300 METERS FROM PROVINCIAL POLICE STATION AND 200 METERS FROM GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE DEMORALIZES TRANG RESIDENTS AND SERVES AS BOOST TO CT MORALE AND RECRUITMENT.

HAHILTON

UNQUOTE

WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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